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PHOTO COURTESY KATHY ULLATHORNE

Sue Lawrence, with son Jack, and Anne Antonellis of Duxbury Mortgage Services enjoy the Duxbury Bay Mural display as part of the Library's 10th Anniversary Celebration happening November 3rd. The moving mural has been traveling throughout town for public viewing since September.

Library milestones and murals

Replica painting travels through town

By Andria Farrell
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Ten years ago this November, the Duxbury Free Library moved out of the Wright Building and into a more spacious building across the campus in the old high school.

On Nov. 3, the library is celebrating the 10th anniversary at its current home with a fundraiser sponsored by the Friends of the Duxbury Free Library.

As part of the celebration, a replica of the mural that has graced the wall of the children's library since 1998 has been traveling throughout local Duxbury businesses since September. Anne Antonellis, chairwoman of the Duxbury Business Association, said she was contacted by the Friends of

the Duxbury Free Library and presented with the idea of the "moving mural" though local business in town to make people aware of the library fundraiser. This past week the mural sat facing out of the window at Antonellis' business, Duxbury Mortgage Services Inc. The mural has traveled throughout Duxbury, from Far Fars Danish Ice Cream Shop, to Anne Henning Photography and Gallery. Next week the mural will be at The Law Office of Philip M. Markella, as well as other local businesses.

When the library moved into the then new location, the spacious children's room let Children's Librarian Nancy Denman to take a plain wall and make it a masterpiece. She visualized the wall becoming a mural, not only for the entertainment of the children and their families, but also to inspire.

"It became obvious that the picture book area had a wonderful big wall that just cried out for some type of

mural," Denman stated in a press release.

Through a conversation with local resident Mary Conway, Denman learned of a pair of young artists, Conway's daughter, Anna, and her colleague, John Hodany, who had created several murals for local homes in the area. After seeing the samples of their work, Denman approached the Friends about the idea of funding a mural for the wall in the children's room.

Combining their talents, Conway and Hodany created a mural capturing the history and flavor of Duxbury through the seascape coast that surrounds the town. The mural features the 880-ton ship "Hope," built in Duxbury, as well as a distant Standish Monument. Conway depicts whimsical scenes with clever fictitious book titles including a "headmaster" fish reading "School of Fish" to an attentive group, while squirrels below refer to "Dig to China." On the mural a cat

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Celebration planned commemorating 10 years at 'new' location

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can be found at the end of the dock gazing into the bay with "Famous Friendship Between Fin & Fur" and birds hovering over a seagull while it reads "The Birds and the Bees."

"By basing a mural on Duxbury's landscape and seascape, we could harness the inherent power and unique beauty of this place," Conway stated in a press release. "We hoped the inclusion of nature within the building would give the space a tranquil yet exciting mood."

Denman said the creativity used with the animals and comical titles of the books chosen by the artists create a multigenerational mural that can be enjoyed by both children of all ages as well as adults.

"It is everything I hoped it would be, it is a great gift they gave to the library," she said.

The mural was created in New York, where the artists were living at the time, on a canvas that could be rolled for transport to Duxbury and then applied to the wall by an expert wallpaper hanger. The library chose this method to keep the painting intact in the event renovations to the library would force its removal. The original mural was unveiled on Sunday, March 22, 1998, and has remained as an

open book ever since.

Kathy Ullathorne, who became a member of the Friends last year, said she is delighted with how welcoming the children's library was for her children. By being part of the committee and helping support the fundraising efforts, she is helping to keep the library a part of children's life for a long time she said.

"I am working with the library on a personal level because I want them (her children) to have a comfortable place to go now, and so our library will be there," she said. "The importance of the committee is for us to help keep the library very strong."

Laura Sullivan, president of the Friends of the Duxbury Free Library, said the 10th anniversary event is more than just food and cocktails, it is a night out with art, artists, culture, and to raise money for a wonderful cause. She said all donations made to the Friends directly benefit the donor. The money they receive benefits all ages, from toddlers to adults, who use the facilities at the library. Last year the Friends raised \$18,000 that paid for beautiful new landscaping in front of the library.

"My view is, we raise money for what makes the library a nice place to be," said Sullivan. "We get federal funding for basic

needs, like books and supplies, but we raise money to make the personal touches at the library more enjoyable for everyone."

On Saturday, Nov. 3, in honor of the artists Conway and Hodany, the Friends are hosting a fundraiser, "Celebrating the Library the Bay and Beyond" from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Duxbury Free Library, which will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the building. The evening will include music performed by Duxbury music students as well as a coastal theme reception catered by Simply Divine Catering, featuring a raw bar by Island Creek Oysters and a cash bar.

Both artists will be attending and signing limited editions of the Duxbury Bay Mural. Giclee prints will be on sale for \$125 for small prints, and larger prints for \$200. Prints framed by Adica Gallery will be raffled during the fundraiser, and are on display at the library with an additional print, the "moving mural" which has been traveling throughout Duxbury establishments for public viewing since September.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at the library or Westwinds Bookshop. Only 200 tickets will be sold and all profits will benefit the library. For more information, preorders for prints and raffle tickets contact The Friends of the Library at 781-934-2183.